

March 16, 1976

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Senator Richard Lewis.

SENATOR R. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature. My position hasn't changed from yesterday. I opposed this yesterday, I still oppose it. I was a member of the Public Health Committee that visited the facility here in Lincoln before the move was made over at the University Hospital. It was explained very carefully to us that this service could be rendered much more efficiently and at less cost at University Hospital. The move was made to the detriment of the program, apparently, because in this setting out here many of the braces were built right in the shop. They had people right there capable of doing this. Apparently the care was qualified because I've talked with many people who brought crippled children down here. They were very happy with the results. But now, since we've moved into more ... a more sophisticated setting, suddenly it becomes necessary to fund this with \$194,000 so that the patients can be moved out of the University Hospital to private hospitals. I think this is entirely wrong. I still resist this. I would certainly support Senator Cavanaugh's amendment.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Senator Cavanaugh, do you wish to close and reply?

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: I'm not sure what the vote is on this so I'd just.... Senator Goodrich, do you want to yield to some questions?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Senator Goodrich, do you yield?

SENATOR GOODRICH: Yes.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: You do know about the program, right?

SENATOR GOODRICH: Yes, if it's what we just put on yesterday through Senator Mahoney's motion. Is that correct?

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Yes. Why is this \$194,000, first of all?

SENATOR GOODRICH: Because that's what the staff, our staff and the Med Center both, put together as the appropriate figure.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: And this is for how many operations a year?

SENATOR GOODRICH: I don't have the details.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Not anywhere in the ball park?

SENATOR GOODRICH: No. All I can tell you is that this is the money that was to be made available through the Department of Welfare so that the doctors would be paid in ... whether they did the work in the Med Center, or whether they did the work in a private hospital. What you're doing, if you take this away from them, is make them continue to transfer the patients across the street into a private hospital so that they can get paid.